

Submission No.....108e.....
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Supplementary Submission No. 108e



Australian Government
**Department of Employment and
Workplace Relations**

National Office

GPO Box 9879 CANBERRA ACT 2601

Ms Cheryl Scarlett
Inquiry Secretary
House of Representatives
Standing Committee on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Ms Scarlett

Thank you for inviting the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations to appear before the House of Representatives' Standing Committee on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs on 26 March 2007 to give evidence to the Committee's inquiry into Indigenous employment.

DEWR has perused the Proof Committee Hansard and has identified some amendments to the transcript. A copy of the relevant pages with the highlighted amendments is at Attachment A.

I am pleased to provide the Committee with additional written material to support the Department's submission to the Inquiry. Please refer to Attachment B.

I trust that this information will assist the Committee in its inquiry.

Yours sincerely

Bob Harvey
Group Manager
Indigenous Employment and Business Group

14 May 2007

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STANDING COMMITTEE ON
ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER AFFAIRS**

INDIGENOUS EMPLOYMENT

26 MARCH 2007

QUESTION FROM THE HEARING

Question:

Do you remember the retention rates of that (Mildura STEP project)?

Answer:

The Sunraysia Area Consultative Committee 2003-06 Structured Training and Employment Project commenced on 1 July 2003 and finished on 31 December 2006. One hundred and forty participants commenced in the project with 80 participants reaching the final outcome of 26 weeks ongoing employment.

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STANDING COMMITTEE ON
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INDIGENOUS EMPLOYMENT

26 MARCH 2007

QUESTION FROM THE HEARING

Comment:

There is one community, at Oombulgurri, where there is nobody managing that community at any level. It is a very serious problem.

Answer:

Community Development Employment Project services is being delivered to the Ombulgurri community by the Joorook Ngarni Aboriginal Corporation. The Australian Government is concerned about the delivery of services in general to the community. DEWR and the Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs will be visiting the community to see what can be done.

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STANDING COMMITTEE ON
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INDIGENOUS EMPLOYMENT

26 MARCH 2007

QUESTION FROM THE HEARING

Comment:

Can you provide us at some point with a comparison between Indigenous and non-Indigenous changes in unemployment rates?

Answer:

According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Census, the Indigenous unemployment rate was 20.0 per cent in 2001, compared with 7.3 per cent for all Australians. The 2006 Census data would be a more up-to-date source but will not be released until around mid-year.

Indigenous specific surveys such as the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey (NATSISS) and the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (NATSIHS) also provide Indigenous unemployment data. The national unemployment rate for Indigenous persons aged 15 years and over had fallen from 22.9 per cent in the 2002 NATSISS to 15.4 per cent in the 2004-05 NATSIHS, a statistically significant improvement. Due to similar survey methodology, these surveys are suitable for comparative purposes.

The estimate from the ABS Labour Force Survey for the Australian population aged 15 years and over for the period from August 2004 to July 2005 (the same period in which the NATSIHS was conducted) was 5.2 per cent.

The unemployment rate for non-Indigenous Australians would have been lower than the rate for the entire Australian population aged 15 years and older, as the rate of unemployment for Indigenous Australians was above the national average.

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STANDING COMMITTEE ON
ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER AFFAIRS**

INDIGENOUS EMPLOYMENT

26 MARCH 2007

QUESTION FROM THE HEARING

Question:

Figures for urban, regional and remote, you have done some work for us on that. Given that the mining, construction and pastoral industries have predominance in regional and remote areas – perhaps not construction, but certainly two of those – do you have the figures in your list here which should bring us up-to-date on that? If not, just take it on notice.

Answer

Table 1 below shows, for the period from 1 July 2006 to 31 March 2007, that 37 813 Indigenous job placements have been made through Job Network. Approximately 12 660 of these jobs have been full-time positions; 5 369 part-time positions; and 19 784 casual positions.

Over the same period, almost 10 315 13-week job outcomes were recorded, and over 5 702 26-week outcomes were recorded.

Table 2 shows the breakdown of the 37 813 Indigenous jobs by industry. The majority of the placements have been in the Property and Retail, Manufacturing and Agriculture industries which include pastoral activities.

Table 1 – Job Network Outcomes for Indigenous Job Seekers, 1 July 2006 – 31 March 2007

State	Labour Market Region	Total Job Placements	Full time positions ¹	Part time positions ²	Casual positions ³	13 Week Outcomes	26 Week Outcomes
ACT	Australian Capital Territory	271	94	67	110	54	28
	Total	271	94	67	110	54	28
NSW	Hunter and North Coast	2 543	698	493	1 352	885	544
	Illawarra and SE NSW	1 187	499	191	497	328	193
	Riverina	889	277	95	517	230	129
	Sydney	2 889	1 221	311	1 357	828	419
	Western NSW	3 258	855	577	1 826	1 000	599
	Total	10 766	3 550	1 667	5 549	3 271	1 884
NT	Northern Territory	1 874	853	336	685	580	290
	Total	1 874	853	336	685	580	290
QLD	Brisbane	4 381	1 250	513	2 618	1 146	635
	Central and Northern QLD	6 582	1 814	1 058	3 710	1 672	894
	Southern Queensland	1 656	430	221	1 005	443	252
	Total	12 619	3 494	1 792	7 333	3 261	1 781
SA	Adelaide	1 412	425	170	817	379	197
	South Australia Country	1 143	403	171	569	312	199
	Total	2 555	828	341	1 386	691	396
TAS	Tasmania	1 311	222	141	948	364	213
	Total	1 311	222	141	948	364	213
VIC	Eastern Victoria	780	243	109	428	208	124
	Melbourne	1 086	376	147	563	277	158
	Western Victoria	859	304	110	445	256	165
	Total	2 725	923	366	1 436	741	447
WA	Greater Western Australia	1 928	957	282	689	491	236
	Perth	3 017	1 403	301	1 313	693	335
	Southern Western Australia	747	336	76	335	169	92
	Total	5 692	2 696	659	2 337	1 353	663
Australia		37 813	12 660	5 369	19 784	10 315	5 702

1 Full time positions defined as 35 or more hours per week.

2 Part time positions defined as less than 35 hours per week.

3 Casual positions can include both full-time and part-time jobs.

Table 2 – Indigenous Job Placements by Industry, 1 July 2006 – 31 March 2007

State	Labour Market Region	Accommodation, Cafes and Restaurants	Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	Communication Services	Construction	Cultural and Recreational Services	Education
ACT	Australian Capital Territory	35	6	5	13	4	4
	Total	35	6	5	13	4	4
NSW	Hunter and North Coast	291	86	7	291	79	113
	Illawarra and SE NSW	148	40	8	144	24	40
	Riverina	56	117	1	68	18	32
	Sydney	215	31	38	263	39	61
	Western NSW	261	333	8	224	42	151
	Total	971	607	62	990	202	397
NT	Northern Territory	137	135	9	192	35	67
	Total	137	135	9	192	35	67
QLD	Brisbane	321	145	54	380	58	62
	Central and Northern QLD	513	1281	33	586	97	150
	Southern Queensland	159	297	10	121	6	30
	Total	993	1723	97	1087	161	242
SA	Adelaide	53	49	14	113	31	33
	South Australia Country	54	188	1	74	14	46
	Total	107	237	15	187	45	79
TAS	Tasmania	112	200	16	76	9	10
	Total	112	200	16	76	9	10
VIC	Eastern Victoria	32	103	3	54	10	13
	Melbourne	74	25	15	55	31	22
	Western Victoria	80	195	5	78	20	23
	Total	186	323	23	187	61	58
WA	Greater Western Australia	147	121	5	138	25	95
	Perth	99	50	23	315	30	49
	Southern Western Australia	46	70	7	105	8	19
	Total	292	241	35	558	63	163
Australia		2833	3472	262	3290	580	1020

Table 2 *continued*

State	Labour Market Region	Electricity, Gas and Water Supply	Finance and Insurance	Government Administration and Defence	Health and Community Services	Manufacturing	Mining
ACT	Australian Capital Territory	0	1	15	24	11	0
	Total	0	1	15	24	11	0
NSW	Hunter and North Coast	27	13	61	229	279	18
	Illawarra and SE NSW	5	6	30	140	118	7
	Riverina	0	0	17	57	168	1
	Sydney	8	20	41	158	382	5
	Western NSW	14	5	61	250	448	39
	Total	54	44	210	834	1395	70
NT	Northern Territory	3	12	141	155	79	47
	Total	3	12	141	155	79	47
QLD	Brisbane	7	12	51	252	844	9
	Central and Northern QLD	14	15	207	350	494	116
	Southern Queensland	7	6	35	77	313	19
	Total	28	33	293	679	1651	144
SA	Adelaide	0	5	27	92	175	5
	South Australia Country	3	0	26	119	174	38
	Total	3	5	53	211	349	43
TAS	Tasmania	3	5	14	57	201	10
	Total	3	5	14	57	201	10
VIC	Eastern Victoria	1	1	20	46	150	4
	Melbourne	2	4	12	88	160	3
	Western Victoria	12	2	14	68	90	1
	Total	15	7	46	202	400	8
WA	Greater Western Australia	7	7	66	153	174	191
	Perth	9	12	50	115	574	56
	Southern Western Australia	1	0	11	63	134	7
	Total	17	19	127	331	882	254
Australia		123	126	899	2493	4968	576

Table 2 *continued*

State	Labour Market Region	Personal and Other Services	Property and Business Services	Retail Trade	Transport and Storage	Wholesale Trade	Non-Classifiable Economic Unit Division
ACT	Australian Capital Territory Total	18 18	85 85	35 35	7 7	8 8	0 0
NSW	Hunter and North Coast Illawarra and SE NSW Riverina Sydney Western NSW Total	138 57 49 151 185 580	413 205 126 981 745 2470	362 147 85 288 309 1191	73 43 21 108 116 361	52 21 66 85 63 287	3 0 0 12 - 15
NT	Northern Territory Total	124 124	439 439	179 179	59 59	58 58	3 3
QLD	Brisbane Central and Northern QLD Southern Queensland Total	248 354 67 669	1099 1402 179 2680	507 478 210 1195	160 166 42 368	154 320 78 552	9 0 0 9
SA	Adelaide South Australia Country Total	98 67 165	492 184 676	129 80 209	46 44 90	50 28 78	0 3 3
TAS	Tasmania Total	50 50	284 284	127 127	38 38	99 99	0 0
VIC	Eastern Victoria Melbourne Western Victoria Total	33 59 35 127	234 370 131 735	41 95 58 194	22 44 30 96	12 24 17 53	1 3 - 4
WA	Greater Western Australia Perth Southern Western Australia Total	130 193 38 361	367 875 159 1401	163 277 36 476	71 109 10 190	57 171 33 261	1 2 - 3
Australia		2094	8770	3606	1209	1396	37